

# MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



UNIVERSITY  
OF MINNESOTA  
JUL 3 1958  
LIBRARY SCIENCE  
LIBRARY

## A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Working for Library Service in Jackson County	
<i>Mrs. Aino Lepisto Husen</i>	35
A Year of Progress .....	<i>Hannis S. Smith</i> 37
The Kandiyohi—Willmar Public Library .....	41
Cooperate—But How? .....	45
Library Advancement in Minnesota	
<i>Emily L. Mayne and Diana Hebrink</i>	51
Centennial Book List .....	<i>A. Rosemary Bowers</i> 54

---

Volume XIX	JUNE, 1958	Number 2
------------	------------	----------

---

LIBRARY DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ST. PAUL



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

John W. Bystrom, <i>President</i> .....	Minneapolis
Wayne R. Bassett.....	Worthington
L. L. Huntley.....	Grand Rapids
Mrs. Henry G. Kramer.....	St. Paul
Walter O. Lundberg .....	Austin
Brynolf Peterson .....	Aitkin
Frank J. Petrich.....	So. St. Paul

---

Dean M. Schweickhard, *Commissioner of Education*

T. J. Berning, *Assistant Commissioner*

Farley D. Bright, *Assistant Commissioner*

August W. Gehrke, *Assistant Commissioner*

---

## LIBRARY DIVISION

Hannis S. Smith, *Director of Libraries*

Ruth M. Ersted, *Supervisor of School Libraries*

Emily L. Mayne, *Supervisor of Extension Library*

A. Rosemary Bowers, *Catalog Librarian*

Mrs. Frances E. Hughes, *Reference Librarian*

Diana Hebrink, *Extension Field Advisor*

Helen Lodahl, *Asst. Supervisor of School Libraries*

Mrs. Pearl Moberg, *Loan Librarian*

Grace Ivey, *Secretary to Director*

Helen Koci, *Secretary to Supervisor of School Libraries*

Paul Huber, *Shipping Clerk*

Sondra Anderson, *Extension Stenographer*

Don Ordway, *Bookmobile Driver*

---

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES is published quarterly by the Library Division, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul. Entered as Second Class Matter, October 19, 1911, at the Post Office at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1894. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 1, 1918.

Code XIII—A-1.





# Working for Library Service in Jackson County

MRS. AINO LEPISTO HUSEN,  
*Promotional Chairman, Jackson County Library Association*

## Current Status of Library Service

Jackson County, a small county having an area of 720 square miles, is located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border in one of the richest farming areas of the state. Some 97% of the land is devoted to farming. The average size of farms is 192 acres with a land and building value of \$41,790. This is nearly twice the state average. The average annual yield per acre of farm land is \$49.93. The state annual yield per acre is \$30.48. The average effective 1956 buying income of the people of Jackson County was \$4,930 per family. Of a total population of 16,500, only 40% reside in the county's 5 villages and one city. The city of Jackson has a population of 3,600.

Over 78.2% of the people of our county have NO public library service. The only existing public library is located in the city of Jackson, with an admittedly typical, small, inadequate collection.

According to the current valuations, the one mill tax levy on a 200 acre farm in this county amounts to approximately \$6.

## Organization of the Jackson County Library Association

Impetus for formation of the Jackson County Library Association was given through a six-county regional library meeting held in the city of Worthington in late February of 1957, as a follow-up on interest shown at the regional meeting in Marshall earlier that month. Several carloads of citizens from the county attended this meeting where the possibilities of forming multi-county units for library service in rural areas were presented by Hannis S. Smith and Emily L. Mayne of the Library Division. In all cases citizens were contacted individually by telephone. After each meeting each person contacted more friends and neighbors who might be interested in developing library service.

In April, June, and July of 1957 several informal meetings were held during which time a name was chosen for the group and executive officers were duly elected including a president, vice president, secretary, and

treasurer. Two committees were set up: Ways and Means for raising funds and Promotional for carrying out association projects. Both men and women serve on the committees. Members of the Promotional Committee are also area chairmen in general charge of executing association projects in their own localities. The publicity committee is also a part of the Promotional Committee working closely with the Promotional Committee chairman who keeps constant contact with all area chairmen.

General county association meetings have been held approximately once every two months for planning broad programs with committee meetings held in the intervening periods for working out details and carrying the plans into action.

## The Action Program

Various types of activities have been carried out in promoting library service for our county. Needless to say, much more needs to be done.

The Ways and Means Committee has been responsible for purchasing supplies such as duplicating paper, duplicating fluid, other needs for mailings, prizes for contests, and membership stickers. Funds have been raised by this committee in various ways. Originally all our bills were paid through gifts of money and materials from individuals and interested organizations. Some donations were solicited, some not.

After the Library Division Workshop held in St. Paul, November 15, 1957, the committee decided to raise funds by selling membership stickers for fifty cents. Some money has been collected in this fashion, but more work will be done here.

To date we have spent about \$100 in our promotional work.

Bringing accurate information to all the people in the county is the chief concern of the Promotional Committee. Throughout all the planning, we have greatly benefited by attending Library Division workshops and through personal help of their field workers.



The following is a casual listing of activities carried out by the Promotional Committee:

1. We have duplicated literature for distribution. Local church and school facilities were used.
2. A complete calendar of meetings of church, civic, and farm groups was made to help in planning speaking engagements.
3. A roster of qualified speakers was made for each community to make up the speakers' bureau.
4. Speakers' kits of information were prepared including the Manual issue of *Minnesota Libraries*, special data about Nobles County Library (neighboring county to the west), and a large pile of *Primers* and Jackson County fact sheets for distribution.
5. The Nobles County bookmobile was displayed at the 1957 County Fair.
6. First meeting with the County Commissioners was held on Nov. 5, 1957. We were well-received, but no action was taken.
7. We have encouraged sending resolutions endorsing the multi-county library proposal to the Commissioners by individuals and organizations. No particular form has been suggested.
8. Letters were sent to all clergymen in the county with suitable informational material urging their active interest and support.
9. We used a state bookmobile to visit every village, city, public and parochial school, and almost every township. The field worker aboard appeared as speaker at several local meetings. Publicity for this event was carried through all county newspapers, radio, posters, and letters to parents sent home through school children.
10. As a follow-up to the bookmobile visit, an essay contest was sponsored on "Why I Would Like A County Library," in 100 words or less, among all school children from grades 4 through 12 in three divisions. Appropriate books were awarded as prizes and winning essays were published.
11. Regular news releases about association activities have appeared in all county newspapers.
12. A series of special articles in all county newspapers was written by well-qualified citizens for the purpose of giving accurate information to all readers. Topics were:  
Origin and purpose of the Jackson County Library Association  
Federal and state aids for rural library establishment  
What a multi-county library is  
The need for library service  
What services does a library give?
13. A series of summer story hours are being sponsored this summer in four localities through the cooperation of the Nobles County Library with its bookmobile and children's librarian.
14. The second meeting with the County Commissioners was held on June 3, 1958. No action has been taken yet. We are waiting. If they will not establish library service by their own vote, we are prepared to circulate a petition form to bring the matter to a referendum in the coming November election. If the latter proves to be the case, we have a great deal more planning to do for a vigorous fall campaign prior to election time.

#### Pointers from the Voice of Experience

It is urgently important to choose officers, chairmen, and committee members very carefully. Besides know-how, it takes endless hours of effort to keep the ball rolling. Workers are needed who are willing to take the time for getting the job done.

If possible, meet regularly at a designated time each month. It is too easy to lose contact and interest unless progress is being made.

Use both rural and urban citizens, both men and women. Well-known respected citizens are valuable and important, but don't overlook newer prospects. There are many kinds of work involved requiring a variety of talents. Use people from all parts of the county.

Publish accurate information widely and promptly. False notions and incorrect facts hamper progress in winning friends for library development.

Use the aids available through the Library Division in all phases of planning in order to avoid wasting time and effort through needless groping around.



# A Year of Progress

by HANNIS S. SMITH

Minnesota completes its first year with state aid for public libraries on June 30, 1958. The establishment of this rural public library aid program, which is coordinated with the Minnesota Plan under the Library Services Act, was the big step forward taken by the 1957 legislature. Progress in carrying out the purposes of the program has been taken in steps of various sizes, but all of them are steps in the right direction. Our goals of public library service development are still a long way off, but we are now a few steps nearer.

Under the rules governing the program, the first and continuing problem is to help or induce suitable areas to qualify for aid. This requires local action by county commissioners to establish public library services on a more adequate base. One of our major problems is the reluctance of these commissioners to levy the qualifying taxes. The current activity by citizen groups in some twenty-five counties is working toward securing this action, but it is impossible to judge their prospects of success at this time.

The priorities adopted by the Board of Education for judging grant applications result in a descending order of possible recipients, in accordance with the goals of the program. First call on the aid money goes to multi-county systems in areas where the rural population has previously been unserved. Second priority status goes to multi-county systems where the rural population has previously been counted as served, but inadequately served. The third and fourth priorities are assigned to single counties in the same order of unserved and inadequately served. All of our rural areas in Minnesota, except for Hennepin County, are either unserved or inadequately served.

The Anoka County Board of County Commissioners acted to establish rural library service in the fall of 1957, and levied the required 1-mill tax to qualify the county library for aid. It was the only new county to take this action. It carried a number three priority, but with no higher priority applications in sight they received the first grant of money. With no other third priority libraries in sight for fiscal 1958, it became apparent, after the time for county commissioner action had passed, that fourth

priority applications for the remaining aid funds could receive consideration.

Accordingly, the Library Division checked the list of twenty-five counties now supporting library service against the standards for receiving aid. Eight county libraries, all having inadequate library service, were found to meet the requirements of organization, tax support, and professional direction. These counties were then notified that they would be regarded as eligible for grants-in-aid. To qualify, they would have to work up a practical and economical plan for improving their rural services in a manner which they could continue to support in the future.

In working up their grant applications these libraries were faced with a number of problems. Since they would, in all probability, be considered as grant recipients only for the one year, therefore their plan had to be one which they could support with local funds later. The libraries already receiving the maximum legal tax support were limited to strengthening existing services. But a number of the eligible counties were not yet receiving this maximum and could plan to add to their services. These libraries, though, needed the approval of their county commissioners if the new programs were to be supported in coming years. For this reason, the process by which the applications were drawn up and approved locally differs; and the plans for improving services also differ. All of these factors were taken into consideration by the advisory committee in reviewing the applications before approving them for action by the Board of Education.

## Additional Grants

The first five grants, totaling over \$125,000 were reported at some length in the March, 1958, issue of *Minnesota Libraries* (pp. 22-24). At the June 12 meeting of the Board of Education, four additional grants were made as follows:

*Kandiyohi County-Willmar Public Library* (1950 pop. 28,644). Grant for improving library service and expediting the merger of the two libraries. The money will be used for furniture, equipment, bookmobile loading facilities, moving and other expenses connected with the merger. The grant also



provides funds for strengthening the reference and non-fiction book collections, the establishment of new branch libraries, the institution of 16mm. film service and other equipment.

Total budget: \$51,731. County funds: \$30,886. Grant funds: \$20,845.

*Koochiching County-International Falls* (1950 pop. 16,910). Grant for improving rural library service through the establishment of branch libraries in Littlefork and Northome, including books, equipment and personnel. A small part of the grant will be used for the purchase of equipment for use at the headquarters library.

Total budget: \$35,429. County funds: \$27,879. Grant funds: \$7,550.

*Martin County* (1950 pop. 17,462 excluding City of Fairmont). Grant for improving rural library service by strengthening the reference and non-fiction book collections, adding 16mm. film service, and acquiring the necessary equipment. A small part of the grant will be used for temporary personnel.

Total budget: \$40,250. County funds: \$31,500. Grant funds: \$8,750.

*Stearns County* (1950 pop. 43,257 excluding City of St. Cloud, Sauk Center and Paynesville). Grant for the improvement of service by enlarging station libraries at Melrose, Cold Spring and Broton into branches; and by establishing new branches in Albany, Richmond, Elrosa and Waite Park. The money to be used principally for new adult books and equipment. The grant includes a small sum for equipment at headquarters.

Total budget: \$41,472. County funds: \$25,272. Grant funds: \$16,200.

Generally speaking these grants also allow for the provision of an in-service training program for the library staffs and an arrangement whereby the recipient libraries are to help with the promotion of the multi-county library movement in their neighboring areas.

#### An Over-all View

We feel that the following figures for the first year of the program are impressive:

Total money granted: \$178,527.00

Local money available: \$223,228.00

Total number of people to be benefited: 236,784

The grants-in-aid, broken down into

general purposes for which they were granted, are as follows:

Salaries and Wages: \$46,145.00

Books & library materials: 63,380.00  
(includes films)

Equipment: 57,430.00

Other operating expenses: 11,572.00

We are unable to tell at present just how many new professional positions will be created as a result of the grants. The problem of filling positions has delayed some appointments, and may force the libraries to hire people with less than professional qualifications. So some of the progress represented cannot be reported until much later.

The figures show clearly that our county libraries have a great need for books and other library materials. The book emphasis has been on reference and non-fiction. The other materials most often listed are 16mm. films to be secured by Film Circuit membership.

The equipment secured with grant funds ranges from bookmobiles to typewriters. Three county libraries are purchasing new bookmobiles entirely with aid funds. One county is using aid funds to pay half the cost of one. The new branches, and some headquarters, will purchase new furniture and shelving, including card catalog cases in some places. There are many other kinds of equipment included in the grants, among which are duplicating machines, 16mm. film projectors and screens, film maintenance equipment, and a micro-film reader.

The sum granted for other kinds of operating expenditures will cover such items as travel, bookmobile operations, supplies, staff orientation and training, and promotional work for multi-county library development in the neighboring areas.

#### The Purpose is Service

While the details given above are important for bookkeeping, evaluating and planning for future developments, the real purpose of the program is the establishment and improvement of rural library service. Looking at the grants from this viewpoint, the following facts stand out:

One new county library, with the potential for serving more than 50,000 people has been established. It is the first new county library to be established in Minnesota in nearly a decade.



Bookmobile service has been established in two counties which had not previously been so served, and newer and more adequate bookmobiles are available for use in two other counties.

At least six more libraries will institute 16mm. film service when the Library Film Circuit year begins this fall.

Ten new small community libraries have been established, and eleven existing small community libraries have been strengthened and enlarged; all of them as members of a larger library unit, or system of service.

Programs of in-service training will result in better service in local communities through better prepared personnel.

#### **Small Community Libraries**

The grant benefit to twenty-one small community libraries is a very important part of the grant-in-aid program. This planning for the improvement of existing libraries and the establishment of new libraries, where the need and use warrant, is an integral part of the general rural library development program. It will be applied in every area where the multi-county systems are developed with the use of aid funds. This is an important point which is sometimes overlooked or not understood.

Of course, nobody, anywhere, anymore, is advocating the establishment of small, weak, independent local libraries. This does not mean that there is no need for libraries in the smaller communities; nor does it mean that we are not interested in developing them. It does mean that we want them to be developed on a basis which will provide worthwhile adequate library service. To do this, they must be members of the larger stronger organization which we call the multi-county library. The program of aid has not waited until we had multi-county libraries to begin the development of more and better small community libraries as members of a county system. These small community libraries, which benefited from the aid, range in size from single rooms to completely separate buildings originally erected as public libraries.

The fact that these twenty-one small community libraries, as parts of a larger library system, were established or strengthened and improved during the first year of the library aid program should go far in allaying the fear of some communities that the

establishment of the multi-county library system would mean the closing of the small libraries. Somehow, despite verbal reassurances to the contrary, there are still some people who harbor this fear, and for that reason hesitate to support the multi-county library movement. This concrete evidence at the beginning of the program in Minnesota should go far to prove to them that their fears are ungrounded.

#### **Progress at the State Level**

A part of the federal funds available is spent annually on strengthening and improving the services of the Library Division, and to help it carry the work involved in the rural library development program. Many of the on-going services of the Library Division share in the benefits of the additional funds available. The major emphasis in these expenditures is in relation to the library development program. The kinds of expenditures along this line include travel, bookmobile operations, the publishing of informational materials, and communications.

One of the major problems of the Library Division has been and still is the lack of space. There is no prospect for us to have more until the completion of the Centennial Building. After careful study, it was discovered that some benefits and efficiencies of operation could be accomplished with adjusting and rearranging the present facilities. As a result, these adjustments were made which required expenditure for all kinds of things ranging from electrical work to the purchase of new furniture and equipment. The new funds made these improvements possible.

#### **Summary**

In evaluating its accomplishments in the last year, the Library Division is subject to bias induced by what we feel is pardonable pride. We feel that we have taken, are taking, and will continue to take steps in the right direction toward our long-term goals. Our gratification is tempered by our impatience. We face the constant challenge that the Library Services Act program is set up for only three more years. We know, of course, that we cannot possibly attain the goal of adequate library service for all Minnesotans in that time. What we are impatient for is the establishment of multi-county systems.



If the Minnesota Plan contemplated setting these systems up through state authority, we would probably have found areas ready and willing to accept them, provided they did not have to put up any money themselves. The permanence of such establishments, if they depended at all on local financial support to assure their continuance, would be doubtful.

The Library Division can therefore take encouragement from the fact that the services established or improved with the help of aid funds are permanently established, not interim programs of establishment. The county libraries are regarded as interim until the development of multi-county systems, but the stronger they are the better they will be able to serve as sources of strength to multi-county library development.

The future of the program still depends on local initiative. No board of county commissioners will establish library service and

levy a tax for it just because the Library Division, or the State Board of Education, asks them to do so. They must become convinced that the people of their county want it, and are willing to support it. Convincing these officials often requires a long, extremely active campaign on the part of many people from all parts and areas of a county. And to get a multi-county library system, there must be at least two like-minded counties contiguous to each other.

Our goals combined with the attendant problems may sound like a dream under difficulties. The goal of good public library service for all Minnesotans is a dream, but not so wild a one as that, and the difficulties are not insurmountable. All it requires is enough people in enough places working for it enthusiastically. The Library Division will continue doing its best to inspire the enthusiasm and help with the work.

### *"Books Across the Sea" for Minnesota*

The Minnesota Branch of the English-Speaking Union feels it is high time that Minnesota knew about the free loans of books published in Great Britain, that are offered by "Books Across the Sea" now operating at the New York headquarters of the English-Speaking Union.

Mr. Stanley Hawks, president of the state branch, has appointed Miss Perrie Jones, retired St. Paul City Librarian as chairman, and with her will work as a committee: Miss Elizabeth Bond, Minneapolis Public Library; Mrs. Agatha Klein, St. Paul Public Library; Miss Anita Saxine, Winona Public Library; Miss Erana Stadler, Owatonna Public Library; and Miss Augusta Starr, formerly with the Minneapolis Public Library.

The Library Division has given the plan full encouragement to explain how the program functions. Mr. David Berninghauser, president of the M.L.A., has promised the chairman fifteen minutes at a general session of the state meeting in September. Watch your convention notices for further information.

This idea of exchanging British and American books started during the London blitz in 1941 when Beatrice Ward, in London, sent her mother, May Lambertson Becker, in New York, an SOS for books which would explain the USA to Londoners. The 70 books sent proved so acceptable and were so much read that a return gift came from London, and since then both collections have been growing both in size and use. In Britain 12 public libraries take regular loans, as do more schools. In the United States there are more than 4,000 books going out steadily to 44 states and the District of Columbia.

No rental is charged, borrowers pay all shipping costs. Loans are for two to four weeks. Bring your questions to the general session.—Perrie Jones.



# The Kandiyohi County - - Willmar Public Library

The Library Boards of the Willmar Public Library and the Kandiyohi County Library took a fine step forward by merging the operations of the two libraries in May of this year. The files of the Library Division reveal that such a move had been considered intermittently ever since the establishment of the county library a decade ago. The major obstacle appears to have been the difficulty of finding a mutually satisfactory arrangement under which the contemplated merger could be effected.

The two library boards sit as a single joint board for governing the joint library. Burton L. Sundberg, Willmar librarian, has become head of the merged library. The county library is being moved into the Willmar Public Library building and the building is being adjusted to permit more efficient bookmobile operation. Other aspects of the merger are also now under way.

During 1957 and early 1958 a series of events took place which prepared the ground work for reopening negotiations toward a merger. After Diana Hebrink left the county library to join the staff of the Library Division, the county library had been unable to secure a new professional head, and therefore lacked the required professional head. During the same period, Miss Amy Hanscomb retired from the position of librarian of the city library, and the city board was able to secure Mr. Sundberg, formerly of the Isanti County Library, as her successor. This gave the city library a professional head.

Early in 1958, when it became apparent that bottom priority requests were receiving grants-in-aid from the new state-federal program, the situation in the area was such that it was not qualified to receive aid for a number of reasons:

(1) There was no professional head librarian for the rural service, (2) The city alone could not receive financial aid from the program, and (3) With the population of the county divided between the two libraries, the population total fell below the 20,000 minimum set by the legislature. It thus became apparent to both boards that if they desired to benefit from the aid program it would be necessary for them to

combine. The two libraries needed each other.

The members of both library boards had been aware for a considerable time that they could do a more effective job and make more efficient use of aid funds to help finance the merger, gave new impetus to the merger movement. With the feeling that the time had come to explore possibilities again the two library boards began a series of joint meetings in the early spring of 1958. After much discussion, and exploring with the help of the Library Division, the possible ways in which the merger might take place, the two boards began work on a detailed plan.

It was decided during the course of these meetings that, while the advantages were generally agreed upon, if the merger were to be mutually acceptable it should have the following characteristics: (1) It should protect fully the interest of both libraries; (2) It should take place in such a manner as to assure equal improvements in the services of both libraries; (3) It should conform completely to requirements of pertinent law; (4) It should meet the approval of the officials and citizens of both city and county, and (5) It should be as simple and clean-cut as possible to assure the desired efficiencies of administration and operation.

The contract, as finally agreed upon, which brought about the merger is printed at the end of this article. It is an excellent example of how the difficulties in meeting the desired characteristics were solved. The protection of interests shows up in Section IV; improvement and simplicity are present in Sections II and III; official approval is provided for in Section VI; and legality was assured by involving their city and county attorneys in the drafting of the merger contract.

The proposed merger was widely publicized, with much pro and con discussion at meetings and in the press. In addition, public hearings were held which afforded the public an additional opportunity to express its views. It is to be noted that the provisions for termination (Section IV) provide for a minimum trial period of three years. It was felt that at least this much time would be necessary before it could be



known whether or not the merger would be successful in attaining the desired ends.

The contract was signed by the two library boards on May 9, and submitted to the Willmar City Council and the Kandiyohi County Commissioners. Both approved the action at meetings later in May. The merged library board submitted an aid application in late May for action by the Board of Education at its June meeting. On June 12, the merged library was awarded a grant of \$20,845 which is described more fully elsewhere in this issue.

The contract which effected the merger is printed below. It is a fruitful field for study by library boards, city and county officials elsewhere in the state where various provisions or variations of them may be found useful getting joint library facilities established. They are a useful guide for future multi-county development as well as suggesting a means of cooperation between existing public and county libraries now being operated as completely separate units.

Kandiyohi County and the City of Willmar are to be congratulated for taking a big step forward toward a more adequate organization and operation of library service for all their people.

#### AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, it is the mutual desire to strengthen and improve public library service for the people of Kandiyohi County and the City of Willmar, and

WHEREAS, the Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners and the Willmar City Council have both passed Resolutions encouraging us to proceed with a mutually agreeable plan for the joint operation of said library service, and

WHEREAS, legal authority for library board action is provided for in Minnesota Statutes Sections 134.09, 134.11, 134.12 and 375.33,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Library Boards of the Willmar Public Library and the Kandiyohi County Library, do hereby enter into the following Agreement with the full intent of strengthening and improving public library services in all the areas to which we are responsible:

#### I.

##### PURPOSE:

1. It is the purpose of this Agreement to strengthen and improve public library

services in Kandiyohi County and the City of Willmar by combining the operations of the Kandiyohi County Library and the Willmar Public Library to make a cooperative unit.

#### II.

##### THE JOINT LIBRARY BOARD:

1. For the purposes of governing the combined library services, the two library boards of the respective libraries will meet together as one Board, and administer the library services as a single library system.

2. Said library Boards shall consist of those members legally appointed by their respective governing bodies, and their terms of appointment and future replacements shall be the continuing responsibility of their respective governing bodies.

3. As one Board, they shall administer the library service as a single library system, which shall hereafter be known as "Kandiyohi County—Willmar Library Board."

#### III.

##### FINANCING AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS:

1. Upon organization of the joint library board, there shall be elected a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Said Treasurer shall be selected by the joint Board as a whole from among the members of the Willmar Library Board, and upon his selection said Treasurer shall do and perform all the duties necessarily incident to that office and as specifically set forth hereinafter. Said Treasurer shall, before qualifying as such, furnish a surety bond in such sum and amount as may be fixed by the joint Library Board, in favor of the joint Library Board, Kandiyohi County and the City of Willmar, Minnesota.

(a) Said Treasurer shall keep due and strict accounting of all monies coming into his hands for the use of the said Joint Library Board, and he shall keep due and strict accounting of all disbursements from said fund, which fund shall be known as the Joint Library Fund and which shall be deposited in such bank or banks as may be determined from time to time by the Joint Library Board. The Treasurer shall render to said Board quarterly statements of account, copies of which shall also be filed with the County Auditor of Kandiyohi



County, Minnesota, and the City Clerk of the City of Willmar, Minnesota.

2. A general operating budget shall be made up yearly and maintained as a single budget. Said budget shall be arrived at by joint consultation between the members of the Joint Library Board; after said budget has been arrived at and agreed upon, copies thereof shall be filed with the County Auditor of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, and the City Clerk of the City of Willmar, Minnesota. Of said budget, the County of Kandiyohi shall contribute fifty-five (55%) per cent of the total thereof, and the City of Willmar shall contribute forty-five (45%) per cent of the total thereof; the ratio of contributions herein provided for shall be controlling until and unless the same shall be changed by action of the Joint Library Board and approved by the Board of Commissioners of Kandiyohi County, and the City Council of the City of Willmar.

3. When and as the funds (to be credited to the Library Fund) become available to the political subdivisions, i.e., Kandiyohi County and the City of Willmar, then the said funds, on proper vouchers filed by the Joint Library Board, shall be paid into the Joint Library Fund administered by the Treasurer of the Library Board, in the respective proportions as hereinbefore set forth in this Agreement.

4. All operating expenses of the joint Library Board (exclusive of building fund commitments by either political subdivision), shall be proper charges against the operation and maintenance of said Library, including, but not being limited to, all salaries and wages of personnel, cost of maintenance and repair of buildings, purchase and replacement of books and equipment and proper items of expense, and they shall be charged against, and paid out of, said fund.

(a) Any and all disbursements from said combined Library Fund shall be by "check-warrant" issued as hereinafter set forth, which check-warrant shall become a negotiable instrument when signed by the Treasurer and any two other officers of the Joint Board hereinafter named.

(b) The payment of all wages and salaries of regularly retained personnel shall be paid semi-monthly after, in the first instance, the Joint Library Board has duly adopted a Resolution authorizing the same

and fixing the amount of said salaries and wages.

(c) Said Joint Library Board shall, annually, determine a reasonable amount to be set up on the books of account of the Library Board, and kept in a separate fund, as depreciation for replacement of the presently owned Bookmobile, which is owned by Kandiyohi County.

(d) Any further rules or regulations concerning financing and disbursements of funds may be adopted by the Joint Board by resolution, not inconsistent herewith.

#### IV.

##### PROVISION FOR TERMINATION:

1. This Agreement shall continue in force until rescinded by action of one of the parties, but the effective period hereof shall be for not less than three (3) years from the date hereof. After three years from the effective date of this Agreement, either party may terminate it under any of the following provisions:

(a) By giving notice in writing to the other party of at least six (6) months prior to the effective termination date.

(b) By mutual agreement of the parties.

2. Each party shall retain title to all assets which it may have held at the time of the combination of Library Boards, including all equipment or real estate purchased as replacement, unless it be specifically determined at the time of purchase of said items that such assets are jointly owned, and acquired, after the combination of the said libraries.

(a) All other assets, including books, shall be divided between the parties on the basis of each Board's respective proportion of the financial support provided by its respective Library fund.

3. Each Library Board, party to this Agreement, shall retain title to all assets including buildings, furniture, equipment, vehicles, books, magazines and other library materials which it owned at the time of the combination of Library Boards. This provision, however, shall in no way prevent the administrative merger or commingling of these assets, nor shall it be construed to prevent the use of the assets of one library by the patrons of the other.

4. The Bookmobile and County branches as well as the headquarters Library shall be administered by the head librarian of the



combined library systems, and all shall receive their full and due share of attention and shall be encouraged to grow in their services along with the other services of the library system.

5. In matters relating to services in specific locations (City or County) where there is a division of opinion on the Joint Board, the weight of decision shall rest with the Library Board responsible for such service.

#### V.

##### BY-LAWS:

1. The Joint Library Board shall have authority to make and adopt such By-Laws as may be proper, expedient and necessary for the efficient management and operation of the Joint Library services and to the proper fulfillment of this Agreement.

#### VI.

##### APPROVAL AND EXECUTION:

1. This Agreement shall be executed by the Chairman (President) and Secretary on

behalf of each of the respective Library Boards after due authorization therefor by each of said Boards. However, this Agreement shall not become effective until it shall have been presented to, and approved by, the Board of County Commissioners of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, and the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed this ninth day of May, 1958.

#### KANDIYOHI COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

(Signed) By H. C. Feig, President

(Signed) By Alyce Gandrud, Secretary

#### WILLMAR LIBRARY BOARD


(Signed) By Willis W. Black, President

(Signed) By Lucy Bangston, Secretary

I certify that this is an exact copy of the agreement as signed.

(Signed) *Burton L. Sundberg*

BURTON L. SUNDBERG

Books make a  Home

### Two Important Booklets

The Library Division has just received copies of the two following booklets which will be very helpful to the rural library development program. *Contracts and Agreements for Public Library Service*; (PLD Reporter No. 6; Chicago, American Library Association, 1958). This contains an immense amount of material taken from contracts and agreements now in force, designed to fulfill the specific requirements of various situations. County officials and library boards will find it extremely helpful in drawing up contracts covering the establishment of multi-county libraries, and covering the relationship of local libraries to the larger library systems. *Bookmobile Service Today*; (PLD Reporter No. 7; Chicago, American Library Association, 1958). An excellent contribution to the literature of the subject, consisting as it does of reprints of the series of articles which have appeared over the past year in the *ALA Bulletin*. It can be used to answer a multitude of questions concerning bookmobile service and operations, and as a source of publicity for groups working to establish this kind of service in local areas.



## Cooperate - - But How?

Every county in Minnesota has at least one local community library in it. These range in size from the almost invisible to large successful library establishments. In every area where multi-county development is being promoted, the question always arises as to the relationship of the existing public libraries to both the movement and to the system, if and when established. These questions are important, and this article will provide the answers or at least some suggestions as to how the question can be decided. Let's take the easy answer first.

Every existing public library, through its library board and librarian, should do everything in its power to encourage and assist the multi-county library movement in its own area. This is for two very good reasons. The selfish one is that the establishment of the multi-county system would give the local library a golden opportunity to improve its services and share in the benefits of the grants-in-aid program. The more noble reason is that the local library is obligated to its community, and to the library movement, to work toward the goal of better public library service for everyone.

The local library board and librarian can help the multi-county movement in many ways. An important step is for the library board to become well informed about the program and pass a resolution endorsing the movement. This reassures everyone concerned that the local library backs the movement, but it does not constitute the contract which must come later. Local people will be able to think of many other ways to help, but a few are: talk favorably about the movement at every opportunity; cooperate in every way possible with everyone backing the movement; urge support and interest on the part of library patrons, and sponsor or attend as many of the library promotion meetings as possible.

### Local Authority

Local library boards and local public officials should keep in mind the local authority and responsibility are their own. There are at least four major points to be remembered:

1. The local community, its officials and its library board decide whether or not the local library joins in with the county or multi-county library system.
2. If the local library joins the system, the local community, its officials and its library board decide upon the terms under which it joins. Of course, these terms must also be acceptable to the multi-county library board.
3. The local community, already providing a tax for the public library, will *not* be subject to the county library tax, unless it decides upon a method of joining the system which provides for this.
4. The local community retains title to its own existing assets, including books, equipment and the library building if there is one.

### How to Join

Local community libraries may join county or multi-county systems in a number of ways. Some of the questions relating to this, and to other matters, are answered in an opinion from the Attorney General which is appended to this article. While this covers many different aspects of the legal procedures for setting up a multi-county system, careful study will suggest a number of solutions to the question of how to join.

Elsewhere in this issue, there is an article on the recent merger of the Kandiyohi County—Willmar Public Library. The contract which effected this merger is an excellent example of one method of joining together. There are others. Three of the ways in which a community could join a county or multi-county library system are outlined below:

1. The simplest way would be for the local community to discontinue its local library tax levy. This would bring the local community under the county library tax levy, the local community library would become part of the larger library system just like the other communities which have no local libraries. The multi-county library system would then operate the local library as an integral part of the system. The local community would continue to furnish and maintain the local housing for the library, whether it is a building or a single room in a public building. The manner in which some small communities have benefited from doing this is described in the report on the grant program elsewhere in this issue.



2. If the local community, its officials and its library board prefer, they may, through the library board, contract with the multi-county library system for the services of the system. Under this arrangement, the library board would pay from local library funds its dues, or pro-rata share of expenses, to the multi-county library. The multi-county library system would then operate the local library for the community under whatever terms are specified in the contract. In this kind of arrangement, the local library funds except those paid to the system, are to be spent by the local library board for maintaining the library quarters, and any other appropriate library expenses. A community choosing this method of joining would not be subject to the county library tax levy, but its mill rate for the library would have to be at least as much as the county levy.
3. The larger community libraries may choose still another method of joining. This is especially applicable to those cities of over 10,000 population which may not participate directly in the aid program. Their method might well be similar to the Kandiyohi-Willmar arrangement. Under this method, the larger community becomes one of the initial contracting parties in setting up the multi-county system. The large library would offer its services to the larger system, and in turn, receive specified services from the system. The financial arrangements would have to be spelled out in the contract. Aid funds may be used to pay the large library for services to the system. The library board of the large library can pay the system for the services it receives from the system. Under this arrangement, the community would not be subject to the county library tax levy. The library board would pay its pro-rata share of system expenses in the same manner that it pays other bills.

#### Negotiations

Since the method of joining will be chosen by the local community, its officials, and its library board; and since the details of joining will be the result of mutually agreeable terms worked out with the multi-county library system, the negotiations become the key to the solution of the problem.

The important thing is for the negotiators to keep in mind the general aims of what they are working toward. Their specific goal is to provide and improve library service for everyone. Keeping this constantly in mind, there should be no difficulty in arriving at a means of working closely together, in as uncomplicated manner as possible, toward achieving the goal. If everyone involved agrees on what they want accomplished, the details often simply fall into place.

The following opinion from the Attorney General of Minnesota is appended to help clarify the legal framework under which the desired cooperation can take place.

#### Attorney General's Opinion

EDUCATION: Joint Exercise of Powers by counties, cities and villages—creation of joint library and joint library board pursuant to § 471.59 authorized for counties and municipalities that do not already have perpetual library board. Questions discussed. MS 134.07, 134.09-134.15, and 375.33 discussed. 285-B

October 23, 1957

By virtue of M. S. 120.07, the State Board of Education administers all laws relating to libraries; and under § 120.11, all functions, powers and duties formerly vested in the State Library Commission and its appointees are vested in, and exercised by, the State Board of Education. Section 120.19 specifically provides:

"The state department of education shall give advice and instruction to the managers of any public library and to the trustees or agents of any *village, town, or community* entitled to borrow from the collection of books *upon any matter pertaining to the organization, maintenance, or administration of libraries. It shall assist, by counsel and encouragement, in the formation of libraries where no library exists* and may send its members to aid in organizing the same or in improving those already established."

Pursuant to and in accordance with such authority, you have presented to Attorney General Miles Lord these

#### FACTS:

"In an area where two counties (or perhaps more) are planning to organize joint library services under an agreement as provided for under M.S. 471.59



(Joint Exercise of Powers) there are two sizable cities already supporting public libraries, and two smaller villages also supporting libraries.'"

And you ask these

#### QUESTIONS:

1. May the counties proceed under § 471.59 and may the cities and villages, as well as the counties, be parties to the agreement and tax themselves separately for the library service, and pay their library funds into the general treasury of the joint library service?
2. Can the agreement creating such joint library service create the library board to govern the service in such a way that the members of the board consist of appointed representatives from the various contracting counties and the cities; such as three representatives from each county and one representative each from the two cities?
3. Can such joint board, containing members from both cities and counties, be delegated in the agreement those powers which are common to city and county library boards? If so, how should this provision be phrased?
4. Could the agreement creating the joint library designate that certain joint library board members be drawn from certain cities in the counties signing the agreement even if the cities are not separate contracting parties?

#### OPINION

The submitted facts being general in nature, your questions are susceptible of answer only in a general way.

1. M. S. A. 471.59, Subd. 1, provides:

*"Two or more governmental units, by agreement entered into through action of their governing bodies, may jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties or any similar powers, including those which are the same except for the territorial limits within which they may be exercised. The term 'governmental unit' as used in this section includes every city, village, borough, county, town, and school district, and other political subdivision."*

What powers, then, do counties, cities and villages, acting singly and through their governing bodies, possess in regard to public

libraries? That is the key to determining the availability of § 471.59.

Insofar as cities and villages are concerned, M. S. A. 134.07, Subd. 1, provides that "The governing body of any city or village may establish and maintain a public library \*\*\* for the use of its inhabitants" and (except in cities of the first class which are restricted to a one mill levy) may levy an annual tax of not more than five mills for its library fund. Section 134.09, Subd. 1, then provides:

*"When any such library or reading room is established, except in any city of the first class operating under a home rule charter, the mayor of the city or president of the village, with the approval of the council, shall appoint a board of five, seven or nine directors, but not more than one of whom shall at any time be a member of such governing body, such appointments to be made prior to the first meeting of such library board after the end of the fiscal year. If nine are appointed, three shall hold office for one year, three for two years and three for three years. If seven members be appointed, three shall hold office for one year, two for two years, and two for three years; if five be appointed, two shall hold office for one year, two for two years, and one for three years. The number of directors on the board shall be determined by resolution or ordinance adopted by the council. All terms shall end with the fiscal year. Annually thereafter such mayor or president shall appoint for the term of three years and until their successors qualify a sufficient number of directors to fill the places of those whose term or terms expire."*

Section 134.09 applies to all villages except those which have adopted Optional Plan B or C. In such villages the council itself administers the public library. See M.S.A. 412.621 and 412.791.

Thus, pursuant to § 471.59, Subd. 1, any two or more cities and/or villages which have not already established a free public library and appointed a library board, may by agreement of their governing bodies establish a joint library and appoint a joint library board, the members of which are divided among the contracting parties as they may agree. Where a municipal governing body has, however, already exercised its



power of establishing a public library and has appointed a library board pursuant to either § 134.09 or a comparable charter provision, then it has no power to thereafter establish another public library. The power has been exercised and is gone except in the case of villages adopting Optional Plans B or C pursuant to M.S.A. 412.551. I am aware of no other provision in Minnesota Statutes authorizing a governing body or the voters to dissolve an existing public library or its board and to thereafter participate in the establishment of a joint library. See third part of our opinion of March 6, 1942 (file 285b) and our opinion of June 6, 1947 (file 285a), copies enclosed. The 1942 opinion suggests that this would be a proper subject for legislative consideration. It should also be noted that by virtue of § 134.11, an existing library board, rather than the governing body of the municipality, has exclusive control over all moneys in the library fund and over the conduct of library business, and thus the existing library board may do what is necessary and proper in administering such powers.

Insofar as counties are concerned, M.S.A. 375.33 provides:

"Subdivision 1. The county board of any county may establish and maintain, at a location determined by the board, a public library for the free use of residents of the county, and may levy an annual tax of *not more than two mills* on the dollar of all taxable property which is not already taxed for the support of any free public library and all taxable property which is situated outside of any city or village in which is situated a free public library. The proceeds of this tax shall be placed in the county library fund.

"Subd. 2. If such county library be not otherwise established, upon petition of not less than 100 freeholders of the county, the county board shall submit the question of the establishment and maintenance of a free public library to the voters at the next county election. If a majority of the votes cast on such question be in the affirmative, the county board shall establish the library and shall levy annually a tax for its support, within the limits fixed by subdivision 1.

"Subd. 3. If there be a free public

library in the county, *the county board* may contract with the *board of directors of such library* for the use of such library by residents of the county, and may place the county library fund under the supervision of such library board, to be spent by such board for the extension of the free use of the library to residents of the county. If there be more than one such free public library in the county the county board may contract with one or all of such library boards for such free service if in its judgment advisable.

"Subd. 4. If no free public library in the county is available for use as a central library of the county system, the county board shall appoint a library board of five directors. The term of office of these directors is three years, and each director shall hold office until his successor is appointed and qualifies. Of the directors first appointed, two shall hold office for three years, two for two years, and one for one year from the third Saturday of July following their appointment, as specified by the county board; and thereafter the directors shall be appointed for a term of three years. This board of directors shall have the powers and duties of a board of directors of any free public library in a city or village and shall be governed by the provisions of sections 134.09, 134.11 to 134.15."

And M. S. A. 134.12 provides:

"Subdivision 1. Any board of directors may admit to the benefits of its library persons not residing within the municipality under regulations and upon conditions as to payment and security prescribed by it.

"Subd. 2. *The board* may contract with the *county board* of the county in which the library is situated or the county board of any adjacent county, or with the *governing body* of any neighboring town, city, or village, to loan books of the library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to residents of the county, town, city, or village.

"Subd. 3. Any such county board or governing body may contract with the board of directors of any free public library for the use of the library by the residents of the county, town, city, or



village *who do not have the use of a free library* upon the terms and conditions as those granted residents of the city or village where the library is located, and to pay such board of directors an annual amount therefor. Any such county board or governing body may establish a library fund by levying an annual tax of not more than two mills on the dollar of all taxable property which is not already taxed for the support of any free public library and all taxable property which is situated outside of any city or village in which is situated a free public library."

Both statutes were last amended by L. 1951, c. 217, and are complementary. Subd. 3 of § 375.33, relating to a contract between the county board and the library board of an existing free public library in the county, was mandatory until 1943. L. 1943, c. 94, then substituted "may" for "shall," making such contracts thereafter permissive. These contracts, as well as similar contracts authorized by § 134.12 and entered into between the board of an existing free public library and the governing body of a county, town, city or village to provide books for, or the use of such library by the residents of, the county, town, city or village not having the use of a free library, are service contracts (see opinion of February 26, 1952, file 285b, copy enclosed) and do not amount to a joint exercise of powers. The contracting parties are the existing library board on the one side, and the governing body of a county, town or municipality which does not have the use of a free library on the other side.

In view of the permissive character of such service contracts, we construe subdivisions 1, 3 and 4 of § 375.33 as follows:

(a) Subdivision 1 authorizes, but does not require, the county board of any county to establish and maintain, at a location determined by said board, a public library for the free use of the residents of the county whether or not there are existing free public libraries in the county, and to levy an annual two mill tax for such purpose against all property in the county which is not already taxed for free public library purposes. Such subdivision is silent about appointing a county library board, but the county board, of course, may do what is necessary and proper to effectuate the powers given therein.

(b) Pursuant to Subd. 3, the county board may choose, but is not so required, to enter into service contracts with one or more existing library boards, whereby the existing library board, acting in the nature of a county library board, would control the county library fund for the extension of the free use of the existing library to county residents for the duration of the contract. Even though there be existing free public libraries in the county, the county board may still choose to appoint its own library board and maintain its own county public library.

(c) If the county board establishes a library pursuant to Subd. 1 and there is no existing free public library in the county available as a central library of the county system, then Subd. 4 provides that county boards *must* appoint their own library boards. The legislature then specifically provided in Subd. 4 that a county library board shall have the powers and duties of city and village library boards and that they shall be governed by the provisions of §§ 134.09 and 134.11-134.15.

We conceive this construction of § 375.33 to be in accord with our opinion of May 18, 1951 (file 285a), copy enclosed.

In the light of the foregoing analysis of § 375.33, it is apparent that § 471.59 is available to all county boards that have not yet exercised their power to establish and maintain a county library. Thus, two or more of such counties may by agreement of their county boards establish and maintain a multiple county library and may create a joint library board, the members to be divided among the contracting parties as they may agree.

A county board which has previously entered into a service contract with an existing library board is, of course, bound by such contract for its duration unless sooner released therefrom by mutual agreement of the existing library board and the county board. When such service contract is terminated, then, since the county board has not appointed a library board of its own, I see no reason why it could not likewise enter into a joint agreement pursuant to § 471.59.

If a county board has, however, already unequivocally appointed its own library board, then the situation is otherwise, for it has already exercised its county library powers and created a library board having



the same powers and duties and perpetual existence as municipal library boards, and thus has no remaining power to enter into a joint library agreement.

Thus far we have said that the governing bodies of cities and villages which have not established a free public library and appointed a library board with perpetual existence pursuant to M.S. c. 134 or similar charter provision may enter into a joint agreement pursuant to § 471.59, and that county boards in a similar position may do likewise. There is nothing to prevent one or more of such cities and villages (including villages operating under Optional Plan B or C, and cities operating under a charter provision permitting same) and one or more of such counties from all contracting together through their respective governing bodies for joint library services, since each has a common or similar power to establish a public library and appoint a library board.

In making the joint agreement, such counties and municipalities are to be guided by all the provisions of § 471.59. See particularly Subd. 2 and 3 thereof. Under the agreement the counties may each levy taxes to the extent authorized by § 375.33, Subd. 1, and the cities and villages may each levy taxes to the extent authorized by § 134.07 or their charters, to support the joint library. When collected, these funds may then by such agreement be turned over to the joint board as a joint library fund to be administered by such board pursuant to the agreement.

2. Pursuant to § 471.59, Subd. 2, your second question is answered in the affirmative.

3. Such joint library board could in the agreement be granted the powers and duties enumerated in, and be governed by, the provisions of §§ 134.09 and 134.11-134.15. Such powers and duties, as has been indicated, are common to city, village and county library boards, and the agreement may contain a provision following the language of such statutes.

4. If you inquire in your fourth question whether the agreement may provide authority for a contracting party to appoint as a library board member one who resides in a particular locality outside the limits of the appointing municipality, the answer is in the affirmative. See § 471.59, Subdivisions 2 and 6.

But if your inquiry is whether the agreement may provide that a designated non-contracting municipality shall have the power to appoint one or more library board members, the answer is in the negative. Section 471.59, Subdivision 1, provides that the *contracting parties* may jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties.

Yours very truly,  
MILES LORD  
Attorney General  
O. T. BUNDLIE, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General

OTB:dk  
enc.

### *Personnel Notes*

Carl Johnson, librarian of the Hibbing Public Library, resigned in May to assume his new position as chief librarian of the Park Ridge, Illinois Public Library. During his four year regime at Hibbing, the children's wing was added and the new building completed. Isabelle V. Thouin will serve as acting librarian at Hibbing.

Friends will regret to learn of the sudden death of Mrs. Mildred Brudvig Rieso at her home in Scarville, Iowa. Before her marriage last August, Mrs. Rieso had been librarian of the Fairmont Public Schools for twelve years.



# Library Advancement in Minnesota

By EMILY L. MAYNE and DIANA HEBRINK

At the close of the first full year of activity pointing toward establishment of multi-county libraries, the Library Division staff has worked in more than fifty counties from which requests for advisory service have come. The first state-owned bookmobile to be put into service has traveled 10,000 miles for county tours and meetings. A bookmobile driver has been added to the staff, joining the field advisor, extension stenographer, and part-time clerks as evidence of greatly enlarged funds and program of the Library Division.

## The Bookmobile in Use

To date, bookmobile tours have been made in 17 counties. In a 3-4 day visit the bookmobile tries to cover the territory which ordinarily would be covered on a 2 week schedule. The county committee makes a request for the bookmobile for specific dates, and with the help of a State Library staff member, sets up a bookmobile schedule. The actual tour involves stops at every village and community in the county and occasionally at township halls or rural schools if this is the most logical place where people will come to see the "library on wheels." The length of stops varies from a half hour to a half day, or evening.

The purposes of the tour are to acquaint people with the services of a county library, to give them a chance to have their questions answered, to distribute material to them, and tell them what they can do to further the library movement in their own area. Frequently evening or daytime meetings are held in conjunction with the bookmobile stop. Meetings may range from informing or "selling" a community on library service to working with the county committee on specific problems, campaign, publicity plans, or future visits to the board of county commissioners.

## The Bookmobile Collection

Convinced that Minnesota citizens need and long for the best books obtainable, the Library Division staff selected the best reviewed recent books. Most starred titles listed by library authorities were purchased to provide older important books, both

adult and juvenile. Books were also selected from the Traveling Library collections.

Wherever the bookmobile traveled, visitors were literally thrilled by the sight of the attractively displayed contents. Many hoped to check out books immediately.

The collection of more than 2,000 books, brought directly to the people, served in three ways:

- a. As a spur to already established local libraries, it proved that a quality book collection can be popular.
- b. In areas without library service, it showed what the local public library outlet, a part of a library system, is like.
- c. In inadequately served or totally unserved areas, it strengthened the idea that public library services are more desirable and useful the closer they are brought to the family and home.

## Difficulties Ahead

The year's work of the Extension staff, however, brought a knowledge of many difficulties ahead:

- a. *Area workshops are needed.*

Much effective work during the year was done by those people who attended the November invitational workshop sponsored by the Library Division, with Miss Edna Bothe, of the Missouri State Library, contributing leadership. Similar conferences should be held in various areas.

Leaders in one county adapted the methods and publicity used in neighboring counties. Desire for regional libraries advanced as neighbors attacked the same problems together.

Extension workers answered questions, distributed materials, endeavored to deepen the realization that multi-county libraries are possible in Minnesota.

- b. *Closer communication with and routing of information to the Division staff is essential.*

While the newspaper clipping service brought much news of library activity, the staff, at times, received word indirectly, too late to be of service in an area. More effective distribution of materials, relaying of information, and closer co-



operation with county groups are goals for the Extension staff.

c. *Regular visits to an active area.*

As more counties became interested, the Division staff could not work closely with every county group, nor could each be visited often. Knowing the people, and having a closer contact with plans and progress are much needed by the Extension staff.

**Problems of the Extension Staff**

Some enthusiastic people were met in every county. Too often, however, there were problems which the Extension staff could not solve readily:

a. *Finding local leadership.*

County groups came closer to achieving their goal, library service for all, when a flexible but definite committee or the officers represented every area.

b. *Participation by boards of trustees and local librarians of existing libraries.*

Enthusiasm for establishment of county-wide service developed by leaps and bounds when cooperation of these was evident. Each public library board should discuss the advantages for its own locality, then record their decision.

c. *Developing a larger group of workers.*

Local leaders sometimes could not enlarge their groups because of activities and lack of time for meetings. Yet boards of county commissioners made it clear that a majority of their own constituents must indicate their wishes, if levies were to be made. Many people are needed!

d. *Lack of a carefully thought-out local plan.*

In several counties, eager groups in various villages and rural areas did not realize the value of sitting down together to plan in advance. Hit-or-miss efforts occasionally led to omission of important contacts and impeded gaining county-wide support. Far too often leaders were searching for help in a given community, while at the same time potential workers were waiting to be informed of meetings and planning sessions.

e. *Postponement of organization.*

Need for working fast and organizing

early did not seem important at first. Some did not work to obtain endorsements until the activities of community groups had ended for the year.

f. *Local house-to-house visits.*

Lack of understanding is most quickly changed to enthusiastic support, if a neighbor discusses the proposal with the man next door. The state worker and the librarian are not quite as successful in many cases.

g. *Need for publicity.*

Local fact sheets, articles in newspapers, use of the telephone, radio programs, films have not been used widely, in spite of the splendid cooperation of local leaders in these fields.

**Douglas-Todd-Wadena County Plans**

Upon a request from Douglas, Todd, and Wadena Counties, a tri-county plan and budget were developed to show how the three counties could work together, and operate effectively during and after the aid period.

Several meetings were held in the tri-county area with library, community and county officials and interested citizen groups. The Douglas County Library Association held a workshop for their community leaders and workers at which time plans were made for an informational campaign to cover the county, asking residents to show their support of the library movement by voicing their opinions to their county commissioners. The Alexandria Public Library Board passed a motion to support the county library plan. This action added impetus to the work being carried on by the community workers.

A two week bookmobile tour terminated in Wadena County with plans for each county to ask the commissioners to levy the necessary one mill to qualify the county for aid. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners wished to see a successful county library in operation and in June made a visit to the Clay County Library, bookmobile, and branch library at Barnesville. To date, future plans include a county-wide vote to establish library service in November in Douglas County. Todd and Wadena hope that the commissioners will act to establish library service.



### Forward Steps in East Central Counties

Minnesota's plan for the use of state-federal funds involves the establishment of multi-county library systems. In some areas two counties would constitute a system, in others, several are working together.

One area includes five counties—Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Chisago and Pine. Isanti County is now levying two mills and has expressed a desire to join with any other county to form a multi-county library. Kanabec levies half a mill and is attempting to have the levy raised to a full mill to qualify for aid. Chisago County people have held several meetings with bookmobile visits, and are in the process of gathering support for the library idea.

Mille Lacs County formed a County Library Association, with Mrs. Florence Wahl of Milaca as chairman. This organization has several hundred members, has collected numerous personal and group endorsements and petitions and is actively promoting a multi-county library. In April a state bookmobile toured the county, at which time the county commissioners had an opportunity to visit the bookmobile and have the library question presented to them.

More recently Pine County has formed the Pine County Library Association, with Mrs. Helen Pechacek of Brook Park as chairman. Meetings have been held at Hinckley, Askov and Brook Park. Workers in different areas of the county are publicizing the hopes and plans for county-wide library service, collecting personal and group endorsements and petitions.

A state bookmobile toured the area June 26-28. At that time, people in every part of the county had a chance to visit the bookmobile, gaining first hand knowledge of the benefits and means of obtaining rural library services.

On July 14 the county commissioners will be approached with the question of levying the necessary one-mill to qualify Pine County for state and federal aid and make it eligible to join a multi-county system.

### West Central County Plans

A four county area with regional planning underway includes Big Stone, Traverse, Stevens and Grant Counties. Agnes M. Nelson, Big Stone County Superintend-

ent of Schools, was selected as chairman at a meeting held at Clinton last spring. She arranged a bookmobile tour for June 7-8, followed by a day's stop for Dairy Day at Clinton, June 10. The visit was especially welcomed at Johnson, Barry, Beardsley, Clinton and Correll, towns without libraries.

Browns Valley, represented by Mrs. Barbara Piechowski, the chairman, and Wheaton, with Mrs. Vern Fleischer, vice-chairman, both hope for success in Traverse County. With a large membership in the Traverse County Library Association, a spring county-wide bookmobile tour, support of village officials on record, Traverse County needs only the vote of the county commissioners.

Stevens County people organized a committee last spring, with Mrs. Harris Gausman of Alberta as their chairman. Plans are being made for county-wide work in the fall, with an active speakers' bureau and area representatives, since the county commissioners did not decide to establish a library fund at their June meeting.

Various meetings have been held in Grant County since the regional meetings at Herman a year ago, but it does not have a county-wide organization at this time. Mrs. Walter Melby of Ashby attended the November workshop. Grant is the only county in the area already providing some funds for library service to rural citizens.

### Wilkin-Clay County Activity

Mrs. Marguerite Schneider of rural Breckenridge is chairman of the active committee in Wilkin County, where work has been going on steadily, including a bookmobile tour this spring. The Breckenridge Public Library Board recorded its vote endorsing the movement in June. The Wilkin County Commissioners met with the Clay County Commissioners and Moorhead Public Library Board in May, discussing procedures for forming a multi-county library system, joining the library services in the two counties. Clay County contracts for service with the Moorhead Public Library, which is willing to provide service for Wilkin County also. The Wilkin County workers have faith that their commissioners will vote the levy this summer.



# BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

## Centennial Book List

A. Rosemary Bowers

*A list of Minnesota books of particular interest during the Statehood Centennial. It includes books published specifically for the Centennial, other books published just before or during the Centennial year, and an additional group of fairly recent titles that librarians may have missed. There are very likely other locally published Centennial items that the Library Division does not have. We would appreciate information about such publications, for addition to our collection and for listing in future issues of Minnesota Libraries.*

### Centennial Books

- Ederer, Bernard. *Birch Coulee; a novel of the Indian uprising in Minnesota in 1862*. Exposition Press, Inc., N. Y., 1957. 3.50.
- Gopher historian. *Gopher reader; Minnesota's story in words and pictures — selections from the Gopher historian*. Minn. Hist. Soc., St. Paul, 1958. 3.00. Well illustrated articles on various aspects of Minnesota's history. Primarily for children.
- Historical album of Minnesota*. Historical Publications, Inc., Mpls., 1958. Paper, 1.00. Actual photographs of places, people and events of Minnesota's hundred years, with explanatory captions. Hard-to-find pictures of unusual subjects.
- Homan, Sr. Mary David. *A river town is born*. College of St. Teresa, Winona. free. Brief pamphlet on history of Winona.
- Johnson, H. N. *Minnesota panorama; saga of the North Star empire*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1957. 3.00, paper, 1.50. Sketch of Minnesota history, illustrated with drawings by Oz Black.
- Kise, Joseph. *Minnesota: the state and its government; 1957 ed.* Author, Moorhead State Teachers College, 1957. 1.00. A frequently revised standard juvenile text.
- Larsen, Erling. *Minnesota trails, a sentimental history; a personal view of Minnesota, with such state history as has helped in forming it*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1958. \$4.95. History approached geographically. Places of interest are described, with historical background. Pleasant and informative reading. No index.
- Mittelholtz, E. F., ed. *Historical review of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, Red Lake, Minnesota; a history of its people and progress*. Beltrami County Historical Society, Bemidji. 1957. \$1.65.
- Nobles County Historical Society. *History of Nobles County*. The Society, Worthington, Minn., 1958. 4.00.
- Prendergast, Alice. *Swift arrow*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1958. 3.50. Minnesota during the Sioux uprising is used as the setting, but there is little historical detail or value as local material.
- Robison, Mabel Otis. *Minnesota pioneers; word pictures of famous characters and interesting events in the story of Minnesota*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1958. 3.95. Brief accounts arranged chronologically, for children. Interesting material marred by grammatical errors.
- Round robin of Kandiyohi County*. Karl Thurn, Willmar, 1958. 2.50. A miscellany of brief articles about the county—places, professions, organizations, families, etc., arranged alphabetically by subject.
- Szarkowski, John. *The face of Minnesota*. U. of Minn. Pr., Mpls., 1958. 5.00. Photographs and brief text giving history and present life. One wishes that captions were printed with the pictures instead of being listed at the end of the book, but the pictures themselves are beautiful and the text satisfying. No index.
- Who's who in Minnesota, centennial edition*. Pub. by Hugh L. White, 11334 40th N.E., Seattle, Wash., 1958. 27.50. Valuable as a source of local information not elsewhere available.

### Other Books Published During the Centennial

- Bergh, Kit. *Minnesota fish and fishing*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1958. 3.95. An attractive and practical manual.



- Holand, Hjalmar. *My first eighty years*. Twayne Publishers, Inc., N. Y., 1957. 4.00. Autobiography, with chapters on his work on the Kensington rune stone.
- Holmstrand, Marie. *Trouble at Turtle Bay*. Dodd, Mead & Co., N. Y., 1957. 2.75. Boys' story about conflict between fishermen and taconite project on North Shore. Well written, with good characterization and plot.
- Jordan, Philip. *Fiddlefoot Jones of the north woods*. Vanguard Press, N. Y., 1957. 3.00. Tall tales of Minnesota's north country. Thoroughly enjoyable.
- Kagin, Edwin. *James Wallace of Macalester*. Doubleday & Co., Inc., N. Y., 1957. 3.50. Biography of long-time professor and president at Macalester College.
- Marx, Paul. *Virgil Michel and the liturgical movement*. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, 1957. 4.00. St. John's Abbey and University.
- Minnesota. Dept. of Business Development. *Minnesota directory of manufacturers, 1957; a listing of Minnesota-made products and their producers*. Minn. Documents Section, 1957. 5.00.
- Sasse, Fred. *The Dan Patch story*. Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1957. 3.95.
- Schneider, Gruno. *John Rood's sculpture*. U. of Minn. Pr., Mpls., 1958. 7.50. Pictures of Rood's work, with a biographical and critical introduction.
- Shannon, James. *Catholic colonization on the western frontier*. Yale Univ. Pr., New Haven, Conn., 1957. 5.00. A scholarly account of Catholic immigration and settlement in the 1870's.
- Stoutenberg, Adrien. *In this corner*. Westminster Pr., Philadelphia, 1957. 2.75. Lively story for juveniles, about high school boys and politics in a small Minnesota town.
- Wahlgren, Erik. *The Kensington stone; a mystery solved*. U. of Wis. Pr., Madison, 1958. 5.00. Sums up the case against the authenticity of the stone.
- ganized; a listing of the lakes in the state with their locations; and other features. Thomas O. Nelson Co., Fergus Falls, 1956. 5.00.
- Coleman, Sister Bernard. *Eagle Wing*. Greenwich Book Publishers, Inc. 489 5th Ave., N. Y., 1956. 2.00. A children's story of a Chippewa boy living on the shore of Mille Lacs in 1880, gives a picture of how the Indians lived.
- Erickson, Theodore. *My sixty years with rural youth*. U. of Minn. Pr., Mpls., 1956. 2.75. Autobiography of the father of 4-H in Minnesota.
- Esbjornson, Robert. *A Christian in politics, Luther W. Youngdahl; a story of a Christian's faith at work in a modern world*. T. S. Denison & Co., Mpls., 1955. 3.50.
- Falk, Elsa. *Fire canoe*. Follett Publishing Co., Chicago, 1956. 2.75. Juvenile story of early steam boating on the Mississippi. Story undistinguished, but a good picture of the boats.
- Hurley, Sister Helen Angela. *On good ground: the story of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in St. Paul*, U. of Minn. Pr., Mpls., 1951. 3.75.
- Jordan, Philip. *The people's health; a history of public health in Minnesota to 1948*. Minn. Historical Soc. St. Paul, 1953. 5.00.
- Mayer, George. *The political career of Floyd B. Olson*. U. of Minn. Pr., Mpls., 1950. 5.00.
- Minnesota, Dept. of Administration Services of your state government. Minn. Documents Section, St. Paul, 1954. .25.
- Mueller, Agnes. *That inspiring past: the Future Farmers of America in Minnesota, 1930-1955*. Webb Pub. Co., St. Paul, 1955. 2.00.
- Raihala, Michael. *Six months in the wilderness; the adventures of a young trapper in northern Minnesota*. Exposition Pr., Inc., 1955. 3.50.
- Reardon, James. *The Catholic church in the Diocese of St. Paul, from earliest origin to centennial achievement; a factual narrative*. North Central Pub. Co., St. Paul, 1952. 4.50.
- Roddis, Louis. *Indian wars of Minnesota*. Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1956. 5.50.

#### Additional Titles

*Atlas of the state of Minnesota, containing a map of each county in the state; a listing of the cities and towns of the state, with their locations, and populations if or-*



## *Library Activities*

### *Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference*

Madden Lodge, Gull Lake, Brainerd

September 12, 13, 14, 1958

Registration will be required in advance

#### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Friday, September 12

2:00 P.M. FIRST GENERAL SESSION

Business meeting and reports

Program of the County Library Section

8:00 P.M. SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Program of Reference Section

Saturday, September 13

10:00 A.M. THIRD GENERAL SESSION

Program of Children's Section

Separate meeting and program of College Section

2:00 P.M. FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

Joint program of Trustees Section and Small Public Libraries Section

4:00 P.M. SECTION BUSINESS MEETINGS

6:45 P.M. BANQUET

Sunday, September 14

10:00 A.M. FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

Business meeting

Speaker on Centennial theme

12:30 P.M. DINNER, closing the conference

Note: Registration at \$27.50 per person will cover all expenses at the conference. Blanks for registration will be mailed with the call to the conference.

### *Institute on Articulation of Undergraduate and Graduate Library Education, University of Minnesota, Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 1958*

Sponsored jointly by the Library School, University of Minnesota; the Minnesota Library Association; the Minnesota Association of School Librarians; and the Library Division of the State Department of Education.

Conference will begin with registration at 9:00 A.M. on October 31, and the program will carry through the following day. Among the leaders of the institute will be Miss Margaret Rufsvold, Director of the Library Science Department, Indiana University; Miss Laurretta McCusker, assistant professor of Library Science, Iowa State Teachers College; and Robert L. Gitler, secretary of the Committee on Accreditation, American Library Association.